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LETTER DATED 7 JUNE 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I am pleased to transmit to you herewith the text of the statement that my delegation had intended to deliver during the deliberations of the Security Council at its 3228th meeting, held on 4 June 1993, on the situation in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) RAZALI Ismail
Permanent Representative

Annex

Statement by the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations

It has been very painful for my Government and the people of Malaysia to see that, after over a year now, the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to deteriorate. Acts of aggression and atrocities by the Serbs against the civilian population in that country, in particular the Bosnian Muslims, are rampant.

While my delegation welcomes the good intentions of previous resolutions on Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted by the Security Council, it is regrettable that all those resolutions have yet to achieve the desired objectives, primarily owing to the lack of political commitments on the part of the Security Council. It is the view of my delegation that all the resolutions on Bosnia adopted by the Security Council so far still lack the means and enforcement provisions to implement them. This explains why the Serbs continue to make a mockery of international law and continue to ignore Security Council resolutions.

The draft resolution on safe areas for action before the Security Council would not restore peace and the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Even as an immediate and temporary measure, the draft resolution, in our view, still has serious shortcomings:

(a) It does not establish a time-frame for these safe areas. The question that arises is "how temporary is temporary". Without any clear time-frame, the temporary measures could well lead to the creation of "permanent ethnic reservations" or "Muslim ghettos" under the protection of the United Nations, allowing the Serbs and Croats to consolidate their control of territories acquired by force and would be tantamount to acceptance of the consequences of the abhorrent policy of ethnic cleansing of the aggressors;

(b) It does not address the question of lifting the arms embargo and recognizing the right to self-defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina as provided for in the Charter of the United Nations;

(c) It does not apply the safe-areas concept broadly enough to defend all threatened population centres, including those under Serbian and Croatian control;

(d) It does not address the question of control/neutralization of heavy weapons and the relocation of such weapons to target other population centres which have not been designated as "safe areas";

(e) It does not address the restoration of normalcy, including infrastructure, water and electrical supply in the safe areas.

In view of the foregoing, my delegation regards the draft resolution as another "false solution" in dealing with the grave situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and it reflects once again the failure to fulfil obligations as stipulated in Article 24 of the Charter of the United Nations, which is to take

prompt and effective measures to restore peace. It is the view of my delegation that the credibility of the whole question of the future of the United Nations collective system is at stake in the light of repeated failure to take decisive enforcement actions.

It is clear now that nothing short of enforcement action is required to save the Muslims of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Since diplomatic efforts have failed to inject sanity and reason on the Serbs, the only credible response available is the use of force under Chapter VII of the Charter. Such action must be taken now before the Muslims in that country are totally annihilated.

In the absence of any decisive international action against Serbian aggression, Malaysia urges the Security Council to lift the arms embargo against Bosnia and Herzegovina so that arms could be supplied to the Bosnian Muslims to arm themselves against Serbian aggression. Malaysia has always held the view that the United Nations embargo against the former Yugoslavia is clearly meant for the aggressors and it should not have the effect of denying the right of self-defence to the victims of aggression. It is unjust and unlawful to allow the situation to continue uncorrected when the Serbs are so heavily armed and are getting constant supplies, whereas the Bosnian Muslims are at the mercy of the murderous Serbian forces denied by the Council their inherent right to self-defence.

In conclusion, Malaysia on its part stands ready to contribute troops in support of any collective action under the auspices of the United Nations.